

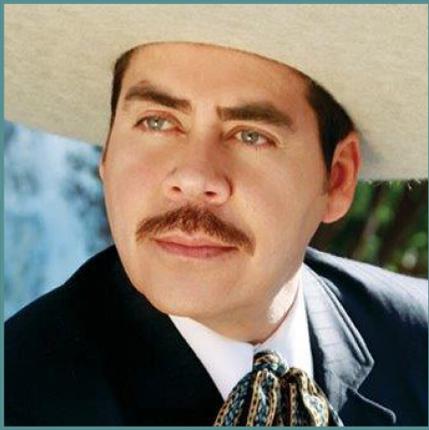
Latino

13th Annual



Spirit Awards

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EZEQUIEL PEÑA

ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ezequiel Peña is recognized as one of the leaders in both mariachi and banda music. He began his career at the age of 12, mostly influenced by local traditional music. In the early 90's Ezequiel was the lead singer of Banda Vallarta Show, but left to pursue his solo career. He achieved international recognition in the mid-90's after teaming up with Marco Antonio Solís to release "Yo Vendo Unos Ojos Verdes" in 1994 and "Orgullo Ranchero" in 1996. Releasing nearly an album a year, Peña has continued his ascension in the banda and mariachi music genre. In 2007 he was nominated for Best Banda Album at the Grammy Awards.



HOPE / HISPANAS ORGANIZED FOR POLITICAL EQUALITY

ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education. HOPE was founded in 1989 by a dynamic and politically influential group of Latinas representing the full spectrum of business, political, and social tenets. In 1999, the organization established its HOPE Leadership Institute (HLI), the first and only statewide leadership program specifically designed for professional Latinas in California. In its 25 years of existence, HOPE's innovative programming has served over 40,000 Latinas statewide and has touched the lives of several thousand more through its advocacy efforts.



MARIO GUTIERREZ

ACHIEVEMENT IN ATHLETICS

Mario Gutierrez is a Mexican thoroughbred horse racing jockey. He began racing Quarter Horses in his native Veracruz and in Mexico City at the age of 14. In 2006 he emigrated to Canada where he won riding titles in 2007 and 2008. In 2012 he rode 'I'll Have Another' and won the Robert B. Lewis Stakes at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, California. He followed it up with a win in the Santa Anita Derby, and on May 5, 2012, Mario rode his way to his first Kentucky Derby win on his first Kentucky Derby mount. Mario has received various recognitions and awards as a result of the success he has achieved as a jockey including the Isaac Murphy Award for finishing the 2007 season with the highest winning percentage of any North American jockey.



JOHN A. PÉREZ
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY



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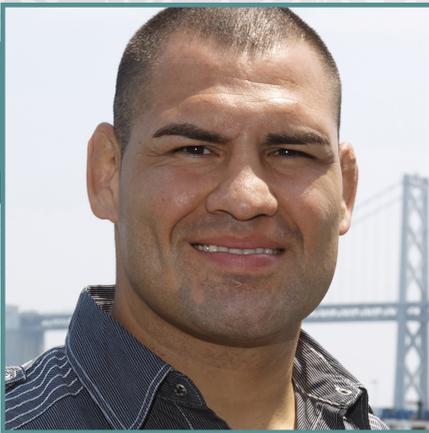
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CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE

ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The Hon. Cruz M. Bustamante represented Fresno and Tulare counties with 30 years of public service. He was the highest-ranking elected Latino officeholder in America until 2003 and is the only Latino elected to statewide office in the 20th century as California's 45th Lieutenant Governor. Bustamante was also the first Latino elected Speaker of the State Assembly. He succeeded in winning five California statewide campaigns and received over 16 million votes during his career. To this day, he has received more votes than any Latino elected official in U.S. history.



CAIN VELASQUEZ

ACHIEVEMENT IN ATHLETICS

Cain Velasquez is a mixed martial artist fighting in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) where he is the heavyweight champion. He is a first-generation American with deep pride in his Mexican heritage, and is the first Latino ever to win the world heavyweight title in any major combat sport. Velasquez has a strong claim to being one of the best heavyweights ever as a two-time and reigning UFC champion. He has already set UFC benchmarks with the most knockouts in heavyweight history (8), most heavyweight takedowns in a career (27) and in a single fight (11). Velasquez is also a two-time All-American in wrestling, a two-time Pac-10 champion, a junior college national champion, and he recently earned his black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu.



SEBASTIEN DE LA CRUZ

DYNAMIC YOUTH AWARD

Sebastien De La Cruz is one of the most talented young mariachi vocalists in the U.S. He was a contestant on "America's Got Talent" during the summer of 2012, where he performed five times with over 12 million viewers each performance. He has opened for the internationally acclaimed Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán and has also performed with Mariachi Sol de Mexico. He sang the National Anthem during two nationally televised NBA Finals games, has been featured in newspaper articles published nationwide and has appeared on numerous television news and talk programs in the U.S. He is a sixth grade A & B student and a class leader.



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SHEILA E.

ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Emmy Nominee Sheila E. picked up the drumsticks and started making music at the age of three, while watching her legendary father, percussionist Pete Escovedo, rehearse. Sheila Escovedo delivered her first solo performance to a live audience two years later and has since established herself as one of the most talented percussionist/drummers and performers in the world. Best known to music fans as Sheila E., she became a top session and touring musician before the age of 19, performing and/or recording with George Duke, Herbie Hancock, Con Funk Shun and countless others. Soon after, she also performed with Marvin Gaye on his final world tour, Diana Ross, Lionel Richie, Gloria Estefan, and Steve Nicks among others. In the 1980's, Sheila's friend Prince helped catapult her to her own pop superstardom. Her talent and hits like "The Glamorous Life" and "Love Bizarre," plus her pivotal work on other Prince-related projects contributed to her international stardom. She has served as musical director for the likes of Jennifer Lopez, Beyoncé Knowles, and Prince. Her producing and arranging talents have been showcased on the Latin Grammy Awards, Summer Olympics, ALMA's, and the Image Awards. Sheila was also television's first female musical director for Magic Johnson's "The Magic Hour." Despite her commitment to her career and the demands of making music, Sheila maintains a heavy involvement in charitable organizations as a philanthropist, she is the co-founder & chair of the Elevate Hope Foundation, focusing on the needs of victims of child abuse by promoting music and arts education as an alternative form of therapy.



JUSTICE IRMA ELSA GONZALEZ

ACHIEVEMENT IN LAW & PUBLIC SERVICE

Justice Irma Elsa Gonzalez was appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California on August 12, 1992, becoming the first Latina of Mexican heritage to be appointed to the Federal Bench. She served as Chief Judge of the District Court from January 2005 to January 2012. Judge Gonzalez served as a Judge of the Superior Court, San Diego County (1991-1992), and as a United States Magistrate Judge, Southern District of California (1984-1990). Judge Gonzalez is a founding member of Latinas in the Law, a master of the Enright Inn of Court, on the Board of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and a member of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers. Judge Gonzalez has received many accolades, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic National Bar Association in 2013.



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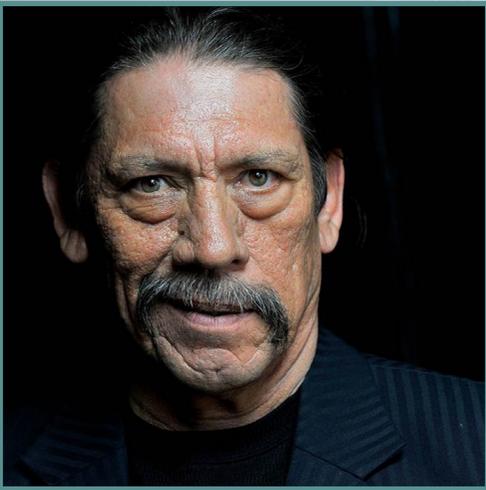
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DANNY TREJO

ACHIEVEMENT IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Danny Trejo has developed a prolific career in the entertainment industry, yet his road to success has been hard earned and anything but typical. From imprisonment to helping young people battle drug addiction, acting to producing, the name, face, and achievements of Danny Trejo are well recognized in Hollywood. Danny grew up on the streets of Los Angeles. Despite spending the latter part of his youth and early adulthood incarcerated, he has risen to become a great actor and better person. Upon his release from Soledad Prison, Danny became involved in programs aimed at helping those who, like him, battled or are battling drug and alcohol addictions. He has starred in dozens of films including *Desperado*, the *From Dusk 'Til Dawn* film series, *Heat*, *Con-Air*, *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*, and the series of *Spy Kids* movies. He was seen in Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino's *Grind House*, which led to a spin-off movie from the original trailers called "Machete," in which Danny plays the anti-hero of the story, an ex-federale with a gift for wielding a blade. Danny reprised his role in "Machete Kills," the second in the Machete trilogy that was released in early October 2013. He has also appeared in numerous television shows and works as a producer for his production company "Starburst." Despite his impressive list of credits, it's his continual role as a devoted father of three and intervention counselor that brings him the most satisfaction.



JOHN QUIÑONES

ACHIEVEMENT IN JOURNALISM

John Quiñones is a seventime national Emmy Award winning news anchor and journalist who has a 25-year tenure at ABC News. He is currently the anchor of "What Would You Do?," one of the highest-rated newsmagazine franchises of recent years. Quiñones has reported extensively for all programs and platforms at ABC News and served as anchor of "Primetime." In September 1999, Quiñones anchored a critically acclaimed ABC News special entitled "Latin Beat," focusing on the wave of Latin talent sweeping the U.S., the impact of the recent population explosion and how it will affect the nation as a whole. He was also honored with a Gabriel Award for his report that followed a young man to Colombia as he made an emotional journey to reunite with his birth mother after two decades. Quiñones joined ABC News in June 1982 as a general assignment correspondent based in Miami, providing reports for "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" and other ABC News broadcasts. Prior to joining ABC News he was a reporter with WBBM-TV in Chicago, a news editor at KTRH radio in Houston, Texas, and an anchor-reporter for KPRC-TV.



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